

Message Text

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53

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 131132Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3393

CINCPAC

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

COMUSSAG

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 11109

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CB

SUBJ: CINCPAC MEETS WITH HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL

BANGKOK PASS ADM GAYLER

DEPT PASS SECDEF AND CJC;

1. IN 75 MINUTE WORKING SESSION WITH LON NOL AND HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL OCTOBER 13, ADMIRAL GAYLER DROVE HOME THREE THEMES: (A) THE ENEMY IS PREPARING A DRY-SEASON OFFENSIVE AS LEAST AS TOUGH AS THIS YEARS; (B) TO BE READY THE GKR MUST GET THE MANPOWER FANK NEEDS AND IMPROVE COMMAND AND CONTROL; (C) SURVIVAL DEPENDS ON POLITICAL STABILITY AND UNITY.

2. AS USUAL LON NOL BOBBED AND WEAVED A GOOD DEAL; HOWEVER ADMIRAL GAYLER BROUGHT HIM BACK TO THE POINT AFTER EACH DETOUR. LON NOL ARGUED THAT SOON THERE WILL BE TOO MANY CONSCRIPTS, AND RETURNED TO THE OLD THEME THAT THE 253,000 MAN FORCE STRUCTURE WOULD HAVE TO BE AUGMENTED TO ACCOMMODATE RALLIERS. HE SPOKE HOPEFULLY OF INSURGENT DIFFICULTY IN RECOVERING FROM U.S. BOMBING. AND HE GAVE A DISCURSIVE EXPOSITION OF THE GKR'S LARGELY STILL-BORN POLWAR APPARATUS AS THE ANSWER TO
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THE PROBLEM OF NATIONAL UNITY.

3. AFTER SOME TALK LON NOL SPOKE OF THYEDESIRABILITY OF OBTAINING MORE APC'S, HOWITZERS AND HELICOPTERS.

ADMIRAL GAYLER REPLIED THAT IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS TO INCREASE AID IF THE KHMER SHOWED GREATER POLITICAL UNITY, AND MORE SOLIDARITY BETWEEN CIVILIAN AND MILITARY.

4. CHARGE, CHMEDTC, FANK C IN C MAJ GEN SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ, ACTING DEF MIN MAJGEN THAPPANA NGINN AND LON NOL AIDE BRIG GEN EK PROEUNG TOOK PART. CINCPAC SUBSEQUENTLY VISITED THE KHMER NAVAL BASE AT CHRUY CHANG WAR AND THE SECOND BRIGADE AT KOKI.

5. COMMENT: THIS SESSION WAS HARDER-NOSED, MORE UNRELENTING THAN MANY. I BELIEVE OUR POINTS CAME HOME MORE CLEARLY THAN USUAL. IT IS ALWAYS USEFUL TO REMEMBER THAT LON NOL TAKES BONHOMIE AS ACQUIESCENCE IN HIS POINTS.
ENDERS

SECRET

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